

INFORMATION

## CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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SUBJECT	Organization, Location, and Equipment of Border Guard Troops	DATE DISTR.	16 August 1955 25X1
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**CORRECTION**

A report [ ] captioned as above was distributed on 17 June 1955. [ ]

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(Note: Washington distribution indicated by "X"; Field distribution by "X".)

NODEX

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## REPORT

## CD NO.

DATE DISTR. 17 June 1955

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SUPPLEMENT TO  
REPORT NO.

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The Czechoslovak Border Guard (Pohranicni Straz) (PS) is controlled by the Chief Administration of the Border and Interior Guard [redacted] located in Prague-Smichov. This Chief Administration in turn is subordinate to the Ministry of the Interior. It was formerly under the Ministry of Security until that body was absorbed by the Interior Ministry in September 1953. The Border Guard is under the command of Brigadier General Hlavacka whose position as Commander-in-Chief of the Border and Interior Guard was once more positively confirmed in May 1954. PS officers are trained in special PS schools, at least one of which is known, the PS officers' school in Olomouc. In addition, there is supposed to be a Military-Political Officers' school in Prague.

As from the beginning of February 1955, 11 brigades of the Czechoslovak Border Guard had been positively identified. The number of permanent battalions in each of these brigades, the location of all brigade and battalion headquarters are given in Annex A to this report. At present, there seem to be 2 brigades along the Saxon frontier, 5 along the Bavarian, and 3 along the Austrian. In addition, there is an eleventh brigade Hqs in Komarno; this brigade appears to have been set up as the PS Danube flotilla. Each of the PS brigades on the Czech-Bavarian borders appears to have four permanent battalions; those along the Saxon border have three while of the three alongside the Austrian frontier, two have four battalions, the third only two. The number of permanent battalions in the Komarno PS Brigade is unknown. Of the 20 battalions along the Bavarian frontier, the majority have 5 companies each; a few have 4 and fewer still, as high as 7 or 8. The location of these companies, 108 in number, as of the end of April 1954, is also given in Annex A. It is apparent and quite understandable that the first consideration of the Czechs, when setting up their border guard units, was to secure, first of all, those borders closest to their Western antagonists. Thus, the Bavarian-Czech frontier has been the one most hermetically sealed. Here each PS company has a frontier sector of 2.5 - 3 kms in critical areas, 4 kms in less vital sectors; assuming 5 companies to a battalion, and four battalions to a brigade, this amounts to a 15 km sector per battalion, a 60 km sector per brigade. Since there are 5 brigades along this border, which is approximately 300 kms long, it can be seen there is not much leeway for gaps. The Polish, Hungarian (from Levice east to the Russian border), and USSR frontiers up to the present are either not covered as yet or, if covered, these particular PS units have not as yet been reported. If the former is true, it represents a rather serious variation.

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ARMY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Alf	Approved For Release 2008/10/10 : CIA-RDP80-00810A006900210002-4				

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-2-

from the practice of the Poles who have a full complement of border guards along their side of the Polish-Czech border. Whether, in this case, these borders will eventually be guarded by PS brigades to be set up in the future, is not yet known but is regarded as quite likely and it appears that the Czechs have up to now simply not found the time, manpower, or equipment to ring their entire frontier area with PS brigades. There is strong probability that the Polish, USSR, and Hungarian borders from Levice eastwards are at present covered by SNB or customs guards. At present, the over-all strength of the Czechoslovakian Border Guard is about 25,000 men. Each Brigade has a strength of approximately 2,200 - 2,400 men of which 500 - 700 are assigned to the Brigade Hq units and the Training Bn; battalions have about 400 - 450; companies have 40 - 70. A brigade, in addition to brigade headquarters and four permanent battalions, has directly subordinated to its headquarters the following units: a reserve and/or training battalion, a guard unit, signal unit, motor transport unit, and construction unit. In some brigades, there seem to be both a reserve and a training battalion; this, however, appears to be the exception rather than the rule and in the great majority of brigades, the training battalion is also the reserve battalion. It may even be that this is the case throughout; however, the present lack of precise detail, coupled with possibly erroneous information [redacted]

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[redacted] still leaves open the chance that there are two separate battalions. Since 1951, recruits who have been called up have been enrolled directly into PS brigades and have been trained in the training battalion of the brigade to which they now belong. These training battalions are not permanent TO and E organizations; they are set up each year in each brigade for 3 - 4 months for the purpose of giving basic training to the recruits who have just been assigned to the brigade. Cadres for this are probably furnished by the permanent battalions. At the end of this period, the recruits are distributed among the permanent battalions and brigade units, after which the training battalion breaks up. The following year this process is repeated. The term of service in the Border Guard is 27 months, the recruits being called up in the summer and released in the fall, 2 1/4 years later.

PS companies live in barracks in the countryside outside of towns and villages. On the Bavarian-Czech border, brigades, battalions, and companies are ranged in linear progression along the frontier from NW to SE, a continuous line of companies along the 300 km distance, then a line of battalions hqs, then the five brigade hqs. Within the brigades, battalions on guard number I to IV from NW to SE; companies, 1 - 20 from NW to SE. Battalions having a higher number than 5 companies may be making reserve companies out of the surplus units - there is no firm basis for this supposition, however. [redacted]

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On 1 November 1951, the former 6-8 kilometer deep frontier zone was divided into a 200 - 500 meter side "Forbidden Zone" and a 5 - 6 km wide "Border Zone" immediately behind it. All SNB (ordinary police) stations were relocated behind the "Border Zone" and the "Forbidden Zone" could only be entered if accompanied in person by a member of the particular PS company on duty in that sector. Since 1948 both the Bavarian-Czech and the GDR-Czech borders have been built up into a formidable system of obstacles, observation posts, and human traps. The Bavarian-Czech part of the system seems to be complete while the GDR-Czech sector is still under construction. Logically enough, the latter is nearest completion on its western end; the further the boundary moves away from Free Europe, the less priority it has and the later it will be fully built up. This security system consists of three rows of wire fences, from 2 to 2.5 meters high with built-in electrical and mechanical warning devices; at intervals there are high observation towers with searchlights and there is also an almost continuous strip of ploughed land, raked smooth to show footprints. There have also been reports of earth field fortifications, AT obstacles, and even of mine fields but this has by no means been verified. The system is manned by standing guards placed, at intervals, and by guards in the observation towers, all of whom are backed up by mounted patrols usually accompanied by watch dogs. The five PS brigades

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25X1

-3-

along the Bavarian border, with a total strength of 11,000 to 12,000 men, are manned almost exclusively by ~~Czech soldiers~~ Slovaks, who have proved to be unreliable, have ~~been progressively reduced~~ out. By 1952 only 10 % of these five brigades were Slovaks and this number has very probably been even further reduced at the present date. A 1952 report states that PS Brigade Hqs and Bn Hqs have the following officers: Commanding Officer, Adjutant, Chief of Staff, Political Officer, DOZ Officer, Educational Officer, Leader of Youth Section, Rear Service Chief, Motor Transport Officer, Administration Officer, Codes and Ciphers Officer, Medical Officer; Brigade Hq only has an Engineer Officer and a Chief of Personnel Section. Battalion Hq only has an Ordnance Officer.

In regard to communications, all units from company thru brigade to PS Hq in Prague are connected by telephone. In addition, companies stationed on the border are also connected laterally. Radio is a supplementary means of communication from battalion up, and also between battalions. There is telecommunication between Brigades and Unit 9600 (Chief Administration of the Border and Interior Guard).

The primary mission of the PS is to keep unauthorized persons from getting into Czechoslovakia or from leaving it. There is, however, also a secondary mission. This is to ~~repel~~ armed invasion of Czechoslovakia or, at least, resist long enough in ~~the border~~ area to allow Regular Army divisions to come to their aid ~~or to occupy~~ previously selected defensive positions. To carry out this ~~secondary~~ mission, PS brigades on the Bavarian border have direct communications with Czech Army divisions stationed in the border zone, as follows:

- with the 12th Mtz Rifle Division in Karlovy Vary
- with the 11th Mtz Rifle Division in Plzeň
- with the 2nd Mtz Rifle Division in Susice
- with the 1st Mtz Rifle Division in České Budějovice

In case of an alert on the border, PS brigades have the right to call on these divisions for immediate and direct help. These four divisions, in turn, do not train with other units in those summer training grounds customarily used by the Czech Army but exercise in summer maneuver areas close to the border in order to be available at all times.

The PS wears the same uniforms as the Czech Army. Only the insignia and the branch-of-service colors on the service and parade uniforms are different. The field uniform, like that of the Czech Army, is khaki; the characteristic metal dog's head insignia, denoting a member of the PS, is worn on the collar of the field blouse and the field overcoat. In the service and parade uniform of EM and NCO's, lapels carry only the metal dog's head insignia; officers' service and parade uniforms have this insignia on green lapel flashes. Colors of shoulder straps and shoulder boards for all ranks in the service and parade uniforms are indicated in the following table:

## Service and Parade Uniform

## Shoulder strap and shoulder board colors

	Background	Piping	NCO stripes (on shoulder strap)	Flashes
EM	green	red		
NCOs	green	red	red	
Career NCOs	green	red	orange	green
Officer candidates	green	orange		green
Officers	gold	green		green

Rank insignia, for all ranks, except for the branch-of-service colors given above, is identical with that of the Czech Army.

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**S-E-C-R-E-T**

25X1

-4-

Weapons and Equipment

PS companies are armed with pistols, rifles (Czech and old German 98 models), and machine pistols. In addition, some companies have light and heavy machine guns; in fact, it is probable that most or all of them have, but this has not as yet been confirmed. The number of machine guns has not been established although it probably amounts to 3 light and 1 heavy per company. There are indications that either battalion hqs or brigade hq units (or both) are equipped with heavy machine guns, 82-mm mortars, and/or light AT weapons similar to the German Panzerfaust but this is also far from being absolutely confirmed. A report dating back to 1953 states that training battalions were instituting courses in the light mortar and light AT guns; this might be an indication that by now all battalions and brigades have been equipped with these weapons. A few brigades have been reported as having a number of light armored cars.

As far as transportation is concerned, battalions and brigades have enough trucks for day-to-day supply needs and for the fast transport of smaller units to an emergency destination in case of alarm. Little more is known on this subject. A 1952 report stated that company hqs are equipped with a passenger car and motorcycle; battalion hqs, with 4 passenger cars, 4 trucks, and several motorcycles; brigade hqs, with approximately 10 passenger cars, 15 trucks, and 10 motorcycles. Whether the above count is generally true, however; to how many units it refers; and what the exact TO and E of motor vehicles in PS brigades, battalions and companies is, cannot at present be determined.

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Organization and Stations of PS Units in March 1955

Each post is occupied by a company, except as noted

PS Unit

High Command

PS officers' school

1. Bavarian Border5th Brig

1st Bn

(1st through 7th Co)

Cheb

Hranice

~~Hranice~~~~Hranice~~~~Hranice~~

Pavlov

Ujezd

Stitavy

undetermined

2d Bn

(8th through 14th Co)

As

Krasna

Selbska 1

Zdar

Pata

Polna

Doubrava

Dolni Paseky

3d Bn

(15th through 19th Co) (?)

Cheb

Liba

Dubina

Huehlbach

Horni Kunreuth

Svata Anna

4th Bn

(20th through 24th Co)

Cheb

Svaty Krig

Slapany

Stary Hrozmatov

Kozly

Mytina

12th Brig

1st Bn

(1st through 4th Co)

Plana

Dolni Zandov

Oldrichov

Berg Dylen 1

Mohelno

Slatina

Tri Sekery

2d Bn

(5th through 9th Co)

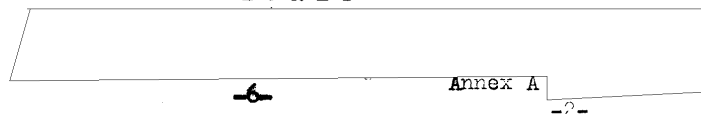
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3d Bn  
(10th through 13th Co)

Lesna  
Pavlova Hut  
Bernavsky Les<sup>1</sup>

4th Bn  
14th through 18th Co)

Rozvadov  
Jedlina  
Hranicky  
near Nove Domky  
near Novy Dvur  
Diana

9th Brig

1st Bn  
(1st through 5th Co)

Pobezovice  
Bela nad Radbuzou  
Dian  
Eis  
Eisendorfska Hut  
Ples  
Vaclava <sup>2</sup>

2d Bn  
(6th through 10th Co)

Pivon  
Rybnik  
Dvur  
Pandorf <sup>1</sup>  
Grafenried  
Nemanice

3d Bn  
(11th through 15th Co)

Trhanov  
Cerna Reka  
Berg Cerchov <sup>3</sup>  
Zamecek <sup>1</sup>  
Dystrice  
Polnava

4th Bn  
(16th through 20th Co)

Kout na Sumave  
Lesni Louka <sup>1</sup>  
Spalenec (Pronet)  
Maxov  
Vseruby  
Sruby

7th Brig

1st Bn  
(1st through 5th Co)

Stusice  
Myrsko  
Cervene Drevo  
Fleky  
south of Fleky  
Svata Katerina  
Zadni Chalupy

**S-E-C-R-E-T**

25X1

S-E-C-R-E-T

25X1

-7-

Annex A

-3-

2d Bn  
(5th through 11th Co)

Telezna Ruda  
Hanry  
Gerne Jezero  
Stare Hute  
Alzetin<sup>1</sup>  
Debrnik  
near Polom Hill

3d Bn  
(12th through 15th Co)

Prasily  
Prasily  
Polednik  
Gsonget  
Hurka

4th Bn  
(16th through 20th Co)

Modrava  
Javory Pila<sup>1</sup>  
Pusta Skala<sup>1</sup>  
Road of Modrava<sup>1</sup>  
Slate<sup>1</sup>  
Dreznik<sup>1</sup>

10th Brig

Volary

1st Bn  
(1st through 5th Co)

Kvilda  
Praseny  
Ducina  
Kota<sup>1</sup>  
Novy Svet (?)  
Knizeci Plane

2d Bn  
(6th through 10th Co)

Kunzvalt  
Zdarek  
Svetle Hory<sup>1</sup>  
Horni Silnice  
Dolni Silnice  
C. Zleby

3d Bn  
(11th through 15th Co)

Stozec  
Hove Udoli  
near Tristolicnik Hill  
Flesne Jezero<sup>1</sup>  
"Ma Kanale"<sup>1</sup>  
Krasna Hora

4th Bn  
(16th through 20th Co)

Horni Plane  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
Planina<sup>1</sup>  
Cehnice<sup>1</sup>

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Annex A

-4-

2. Austrian Border15th Brig

Ceske Budejovice

1st Bn

Loucovice

2d Bn

Kaplice

3d Bn

Suchdol

4th Bn

Nova Dystrice

4th Brig

Znojmo

1st Bn

Jemnice

2d Bn

Znojmo

3d Bn

Hrusovany

4th Bn

Breclav

11th Brig

Bratislava

1st Bn

Malacky

2d Bn

Stupava

3d Bn

Bratislava (?)

PS Danube River Flotilla

Komarno

3. GDR Border3d Brig

Karlovy Vary

1st Bn

Kovarska

2d Bn

Nejdek

3d Bn

Luby (?)

19th Brig

Decin

three battalions

(?)

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REPORT

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Shoulder strap and shoulder board colors

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NCOs	green	red	red	
Career NCOs	green	red	orange	green
Officer candidates	green	orange	orange	green
Officers	gold	green	silver star	green

Rank insignia, for all ranks, except for the branch-of-service colors given above, is identical with that of the Czech Army.

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25X1

-4-

#### Weapons and Equipment

PS companies are armed with pistols, rifles (Czech and old German 98 models), and machine pistols. In addition, some companies have light and heavy machine guns; in fact, it is probable that most or all of them have, but this has not as yet been confirmed. The number of machine guns has not been established although it probably amounts to 3 light and 1 heavy per company. There are indications that either battalion hqs or brigade hq units (or both) are equipped with heavy machine guns, 82-mm mortars, and/or light AT weapons similar to the German Panzerfaust but this is also far from being absolutely confirmed. A report dating back to 1953 states that training battalions were instituting courses in the light mortar and light AT guns; this might be an indication that by now all battalions and brigades have been equipped with these weapons. A few brigades have been reported as having a number of light armored cars.

As far as transportation is concerned, battalions and brigades have enough trucks for day-to-day supply needs and for the fast transport of smaller units to an emergency destination in case of alarm. Little more is known on this subject. A 1952 report stated that company hqs are equipped with a passenger car and motorcycle; battalion hqs, with 4 passenger cars, 4 trucks, and several motorcycles; brigade hqs, with approximately 10 passenger cars, 15 trucks, and 10 motorcycles. Whether the above count is generally true, however; to how many units it refers; and what the exact TO and E of motor vehicles in PS brigades, battalions and companies is, cannot at present be determined.

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-5-

Annex A

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Organization and Stations of PS Units in March 1955

Each post is occupied by a company, except as noted

PS Unit

High Command

PS officers' school

Prague - Smichov

Olomouc

25X1

1. Bavarian Border

5th Brig

Cheb

1st Bn

(1st through 7th Co)

Hranice

Hranice

Trojmezí

Krasnany

Pastviny

Ujezd

Stitavy

undetermined

2d Bn

(8th through 14th Co)

As

Krasna

Selbska l

Zdar

Pata

Polna

Doubrava

Dolni Paseky

3d Bn

(15th through 19th Co) (?)

Cheb

Liba

Dubina

Muehlbach

Horni Kunreuth

Svata Anna

4th Bn

(20th through 24th Co)

Cheb

Svaty Kriz

Slapany

Stary Hroznavov

Kozly

Mytina

12th Brig

1st Bn

(1st through 4th Co)

Plana

Dolni Zandov

Oldrichov

Berg Dylen l

Mohelno

Slatina

Tri Sekery

2d Bn

(5th through 9th Co)

Halze

Pavluv Studenec

Branka (Jalovy Dvur)

Sroumov

Tisina l

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25X1

Annex A

-2-

3d Bn  
(10th through 13th Co)

Lesna  
Pavlova Hut  
Bernavsky Les<sup>1</sup>  
Vindiskrez  
Stary Pochr

4th Bn  
14th through 18th Co)

Rozvadov  
Jedlina  
Hranicky  
near Nove Domky  
near Novy Dvur  
Diana

9th Brig

1st Bn  
(1st through 5th Co)

Pobezovice  
Bela nad Radbuzou  
Diana  
Eisendorf  
Eisendorfska Hut  
Ples  
Vaclava<sup>2</sup>

2d Bn  
(6th through 10th Co)

Pivon  
Rybnik  
Dvur  
Pandorf<sup>1</sup>  
Grafenried  
Nemanice

3d Bn  
(11th through 15th Co)

Trhanov  
Cerna Reka  
Berg Cerchov<sup>3</sup>  
Zamecek<sup>1</sup>  
Dystrice  
Polmava

4th Bn  
(16th through 20th Co)

Kout na Sumave  
Lesnilouka<sup>1</sup>  
Spalenev (Prenet)  
Maxov  
Vseruby  
Sruby

7th Brig

1st Bn  
(1st through 5th Co)

Susice  
Nyrsko  
Cervene Drevo  
Fleky  
south of Fleky  
Svata Katerina  
Zadni Chalupy

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-7-

Annex A

-3-

2d Bn  
(6th through 11th Co)

Zelezna Ruda  
Hanry  
Cerne Jezero  
Stare Hute  
Alzbetin<sup>1</sup>  
Debrnik  
near Polom Hill

3d Bn  
(12th through 15th Co)

Prasily  
Prasily  
Polednik  
Gsenget  
Hurka

4th Bn  
(16th through 20th Co)

Modrava  
Javory Pila<sup>1</sup>  
Pusta Skala<sup>1</sup>  
Road of Modrava<sup>1</sup>  
Slate<sup>1</sup>  
Breznik<sup>1</sup>

10th Brig

## Volary

1st Bn  
(1st through 5th Co)

Kvilda  
Prameny  
Bucina  
Kota<sup>1</sup>  
Novy Svet (?)  
Knizeci Plane

2d Bn  
(6th through 10th Co)

Kunzvalt  
Zdarek  
Svetle Hory<sup>1</sup>  
Horni Silnice  
Dolni Silnice  
C. Zleby

3d Bn  
(11th through 15th Co)

Stozec  
Nove Udoli  
near Tristolicnik Hill  
Plesne Jezero<sup>1</sup>  
"Na Kanale"<sup>1</sup>  
Krasna Hora

4th Bn  
(16th through 20th Co)

Horni Plana  
Zvonkova (?)  
Raci  
Smrciny  
Planina<sup>1</sup>  
Cehnice<sup>1</sup>

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25X1

-8-

Annex A

-4-

2. Austrian Border15th Brig

Ceske Budejovice

1st Bn

Loucovice

2d Bn

Kaplice

3d Bn

Suchdol

4th Bn

Nova Bystrice

4th Brig

Znojmo

1st Bn

Jemnice

2d Bn

Znojmo

3d Bn

Hrusovany

4th Bn

Breclav

11th Brig

Bratislava

1st Bn

Malacky

2d Bn

Stupava

3d Bn

Bratislava (?)

PS Danube River Flotilla

Komarno

3. GDR Border3d Brig

Karlovy Vary

1st Bn

Kovarska

2d Bn

Najdek

3d Bn

Luby (?)

19th Brig

Decin

three battalions

(?)

1.  Comment: Not identifiable in available gazeteers.
2.  Comment: The reference may be either to Vaclav or to Hora Svateho Vaclava.
3.  Comment: Cerchov Mountain, also known as Cerchov hora na Sumave, is located at N 49-23, E 12-47.

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